Fighting the Guerilla in Iraq:

Who are we fighting?

- What does the enemy look like?
- How can he hurt us?
- How can we hurt him?

What does the enemy look like

The Islamic Ultra-conservative

- **Sunni** – Former regime, anti-Shi'a, anti-Kurd.

  Draws support from Baathists in Syria and from anti-West sympathizers

- **Shi'a** – seeks government control, used to taking position as underdog

  Draws support from sympathizers in Iran

The Three Tiers

Common themes among Iraqi insurgent forces

- **Upper Tier – The Command and Control**
  - Well-guarded by Tier 2
  - Provides inspiration if not direct leadership
  - Funded and backed by outside sources
- **Middle Tier – The Bodyguards and Commanders**
  - Usually blood relatives of the Upper Tier
  - Often leaves tracks while trying to cover the Up Tier
  - Provides weapons and transport
  - May lead attacks to encourage the Lower Tier
- **Lower Tier – The 'Trigger-pullers'**
  - The 'Young and stupid' proving their manhood
  - The poor man after a fast buck

How can he hurt us?

Favorite Area Weapons

- **Roadside Bomb (IED)** – the weapon of choice
  - Don’t have to close with your opponent
  - Can hide in innocent surroundings an remain undetected by Americans and Iraqis
  - Sets conditions for other ways to hur

- **Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG)**
  - Close enough counts
  - Best used after Roadside Bomb react
  - Often integrated with small cell ambushes

How can he hurt us?

Favorite Point Weapons

- **Terror Attacks**
  - Attack authorities to weaken their commitment
  - Kill innocents to weaken population resolve
  - Disrupt relief activities to show instability with current government
  - Kill Westerners to gain world attention & weaken resolve

- **TV, News, Photos, Internet**
  - ‘The Cost is too high. Look at their burning equipment’
  - ‘Stand up to the great Satan and repel the invader. We are!’
  - ‘Allah is on our side because the Americans don’t dare to enter our mosques / holy sites / religious

How can we hurt him?

Close Battle – what he fears the most

- **Counter-ambush – 'Salt Lick' operations**
  - **Bait him where he wants to get a**
  - **Cover parallel lines of egress / in**
  - **Initiate slaughter on his approac cut him d**

  flees an attack

- **Triangulation – 'Catfish Trap'**
  - **Infiltrate scouts and snipers along key routes**
  - **Hand over enemy to killing point for Infantry / Armor**
  - **Bring maximum – not minimum – force to bear to increase future guerilla fears**

How can we hurt him?

Deep Battle – Taking away his strengths

- **Counter-bomb ops**
  - **– Clear likely routes with tactical—not technical–methods**
  - **– Give soldiers freedom of action to destroy bombs**
  - **– Use local contracts to keep the streets clean to draw attention to the unusual**
  - **– Destroy munitions stockpiles and raid templated bomb makers**

- **The Media (IO) – Tell the story or someone else will**
  - **– ‘The enemy doesn’t represent the people and is being killed in large numbers with the people’s assistance’**
  - **– ‘The enemy is a coward that hides behind civilians and places them in great danger’**
  - **– ‘The enemy is destroying important sites by**

Hurting the enemy:
Beyond the street fight

Knocking the supports from under the Top Tier

- **Hitting the Upper Tier**
  - Gather intel on relatives and land holdings for likely hideouts
  - Surveil best properties to deve
    targets
  - Focus Sigint on likely targets a
    Upper and Middle Tiers

- **Hitting the Middle Tier**
  - Use informants to track movements
  - Where possible, plan several simultaneous raids to 'net' the Middle Tier
  - Have interrogation plan with Special Operations Forces

HUMINT:
The art of working the population

- Human Intelligence is the most vital kind in an Insurgency
  - All other ‘Ints’ feed HUMINT
  - HUMINT is the best way to confirm the other ‘Ints’
- Everyone has a story
  - Don’t immediately discount the impossible
  - Time and experience will help pick out the good and bad sources
  - Punish them when they lie or send you on goose chases by discrediting them with their tribal leaders (they fear rejection from their tribes and families)
  - Embrace them with personal favor when they succeed
- The Iraqi mind will go with who theZy think will win
  - They respect strength and will go with those that will help them survive
  - They can be trusted but in a narrow field
  - They must perceive their anti-guerilla loyalty will bring them more benefit than harm
  - They are motivated by money, status, revenge and desire to improve their lives
  - If they feel important, they will produce great results

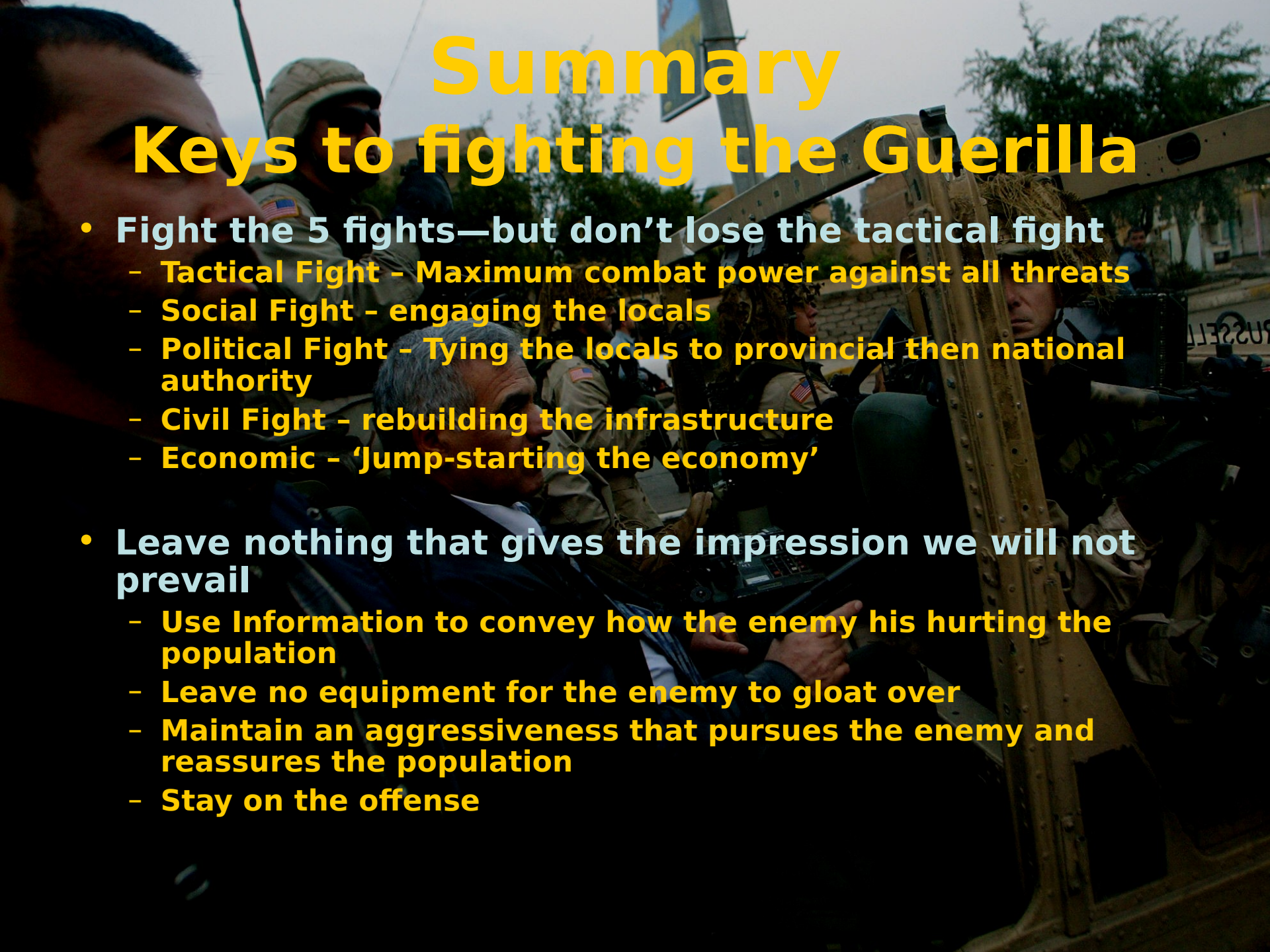
HUMINT: Working the Population

- Sources
  - Man on the street is often the best source
  - ‘Mukhtars’ are a wealth of information
  - Government officials and Police can often have very reliable individuals but collectively should be viewed with caution
  - Tribal sheiks are good for confirmation but are not the best sources for quick action
- Incentives
  - Money talks
  - A weapon as a gift conveys that you trust them and want them protected
  - A good job or position feeds their desire for status
  - Family and medical help done discreetly builds great loyalty
- Cautions
  - Do not discuss sources with other Arabs
  - Do not play to their revenge schemes and be succored into doing dirty work for them unawares
  - As a general rule, do not share sources—you must protect them
  - Do not release hardened insurgents that they have identified or they will be killed
  - Protect them or credibility will be lost and future prospects will be fewer

Summary
Keys to fighting the Guerilla

- The enemy is definable and finite
  - Learn who he is and use those that can help you identify him
  - Find out his likely family ties to determine his safe harbor options
  - Keep the pressure on him and the momentum builds in our favor

- The enemy can be beaten even on his own ground
  - Give him what he fears: close battle
  - Go after him with ambushes and snipers
  - Disrupt his likely roadside bomb options with ambushes and aggressive clearing ops where they matter
  - Thin him out with raids before he strikes to disrupt him



Summary
Keys to fighting the Guerilla

- Fight the 5 fights—but don't lose the tactical fight
  - Tactical Fight – Maximum combat power against all threats
  - Social Fight – engaging the locals
  - Political Fight – Tying the locals to provincial then national authority
  - Civil Fight – rebuilding the infrastructure
  - Economic – 'Jump-starting the economy'
- Leave nothing that gives the impression we will not prevail
  - Use Information to convey how the enemy his hurting the population
  - Leave no equipment for the enemy to gloat over
  - Maintain an aggressiveness that pursues the enemy and reassures the population
  - Stay on the offense

Questions?
U.S.ARMY